THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) There have been 109 laboratory confirmed cases of Influenza A H1N1 [earlier called swine flu] as on 30th June, 2009.

(b) There are eighteen laboratories identified to check the clinical samples of suspected cases. List of laboratories is given in the Statement. [Refer to Statement appended to USQ 206 Pt. (c).]

There are isolation facilities in 26 identified hospitals attached to international airports where patients of Influenza A H1N1 are treated. In addition, such cases can be treated in any medical college or other tertiary care hospitals.

Screening exam. for Foreign Medical Graduates

226. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:
SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is mandatory for Foreign Medical Graduates to clear the screening exam. conducted by National Board of Examination to register with Medical Council of India;

(b) whether very few FMGs pass this test despite repeated appearance;

(c) how many FMGs appeared for the test during 2007, 2008 and 2009 so far;

(d) whether Government is aware of their complaints that NBE does not have a fixed syllabus for the exam. and their marks are not revealed etc.;

(e) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(f) steps proposed to be taken to make the exam more transparent and help FMGs to get registered with MCI?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) A status of candidates appeared and passed is stated below:

Year	Appeared	Passed
2007	3143	536
2008	4211	1326
2009	2289	460

(d) to (f) According to National Board of Examinations there is a well defined and prescribed syllabus for examination which is contained in the information bulletin for the Screening Test. Since, examination is not merit based and only qualifying examination, personal marks obtained by the candidates are not revealed. The examination system is transparent and papers are evaluated on computer and results generated and notified within few hours of conducting the examination.

Review of examination system is an ongoing process.

Treatment facilities for swine flu affected patients

227. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether number of persons affected by H1N1 virus have increased in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether facilities and treatment provided by the Union Government/State Governments to such affected persons are inadequate; and

(d) if so, the concrete plans formulated by the Union Government in consultation with State Governments to challenge the outbreak of H1N1 virus in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Since the first case was reported on 13th May, 2009, there have been 109 laboratory confirmed cases of Influenza A H1N1 [earlier called swine flu] as on 30th June, 2009. All these are travel related cases being brought into India by passengers coming from affected countries, except for nine, which are secondary cases reported in the immediate family contacts.

(c) There are adequate isolation facilities in 26 identified hospitals attached to international airports where patients of Influenza A H1N1 are treated. In addition, such cases can be treated in any medical college or tertiary care hospitals with isolation facilities.

(d) Government of India took a series of actions. A comprehensive plan including guidelines and standard operating procedures were put in place. Travel advisory was issued to defer non essential travel to the affected countries. Entry screening of passengers started at 22 international airports and five international checkpoints Community surveillance to detect clusters of influenza like illness is being done through Integrated Disease Surveillance Project. National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi and National Institute of Virology, Pune are testing clinical samples. Sixteen additional laboratories have also started testing. There is adequate quantity of Oseltamivir, the drugs and protective equipments. License has been issued to three Indian manufacturers for importing seed virus to manufacture flu vaccine. Short term media plan has been implemented. Travel advisory, do's and don'ts and other pertinent information has been widely published to alley fear and avoid panic. Media is kept informed on daily basis.

The pandemic preparedness and response calls for actions in sectors beyond health. National Disaster Management Authority has issued guidelines for such actions.

All States have been requested to gear up the State machinery and strengthen isolation facilities including critical care facilities at district level.

Government is fully geared up to deal with the situation.